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26 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Research and Reports
THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research Area
THROUGH: Chief, Trade and Services Division
THROUGH: Chief, Resources and Industries Division
SUBJECT: R/M Comments on Harrison Salisbury's Article

1. Excerpt from Harrison Salisbury's article from Hanoi -- N.Y. Times December 27, 1966.

"... The textile plant, whose most dangerous output from a military point of view would presumably be cloth for uniforms, has been bombed 19 times, but is still operating under great difficulty."

2. To the best of our knowledge the Nam Dinh Textile Mill was bombed twice, the first time on 28 July 1965 and the second time during the period 28 September-13 October 1966. The textile mill is not a JCS target. The initial bombing resulted from an attack on the adjacent Nam Dinh Thermal Power Plant, a JCS target, and the damage sustained by the mill is believed to have been accidental.

3. It is possible that Salisbury's "19 bombings" represented the total number of raids on nearby JCS targets in Nam Dinh. There are four such targets within one-half mile of the textile mill. Three of these targets sustained a total of 14 raids during 28 April-29 October 1966. During this period, the fourth target, the Nam Dinh Power Plant, was not attacked. The second bombing of the mill probably resulted from the attacks on the nearby JCS targets. Finally, the amount of damage to the mill as revealed in photography is not suggestive of anything approaching the damage that would have resulted from 19 raids.

4. We believe that Salisbury's statement that the mill is operating but under great difficulty is probably correct. Recent evidence strongly suggests that much equipment has been removed from the mill, and probably dispersed to the countryside. We believe, however, that some capacity, such as the finishing shop, which is difficult to break up, may still be in the mill and operated as a central finishing facility for a partially dispersed textile industry.

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5. Salisbury's article gives a false impression of massive, multiple attacks against harmless textile plants. It is not until the end of his article that he suggests that such targets may have been hit by mistake or that there may have been some military targets in the vicinity.

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Chief, Manufacturing Branch, D/R

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